

EXTRA TO THE Hongkong Daily Press.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 1915.

THE WAR.

BRITISH NEARING BAGDAD.

TRIBUTE TO TROOPS' SPLENDID SPIRIT.

DESPATCH FROM SIR JOHN FRENCH.

SALONIKA INFESTED WITH SPIES.

LORD KITCHENER IN ITALY.

MANIFESTATIONS OF PROFOUND ESTEEM.

GERMANY'S FORMIDABLE LOSSES.

THE BALKANS.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANS OFFER TO CEASE HOSTILITIES.

SERBIA'S PROUD REFUSAL.

PARIS, November 28th.
According to a telegram from Salonika, the Germans have offered the Serbians to cease hostilities if the Germans are given free passage and allowed, provisionally, to retain conquered territory. Prince Alexander has proudly refused the offer.

FRENCH RESUME THE OFFENSIVE.

ARRIVAL OF ANGLO-FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS.

PARIS, November 28th.
3.55 p.m.

The French have now taken the offensive in the Balkans, attacking the Bulgarians in the Krivolak region, where they have occupied an important village, and repulsing a violent night counter-attack.

Considerable Anglo-French reinforcements continue to arrive.

GREECE ACCLAIMS THE FRENCH ENVOY.

M. DENYS COCHIN HONOURED.

ATHENS, November 28th.
M. Denys Cochin, the French Envoy, was given the Freedom of the City on the 28th inst. He was enthusiastically cheered by the crowds, and the town was illuminated at night in his honour.

RUSSIA TO THE RESCUE. QUARTER OF A MILLION TROOPS NEAR ROUMANIAN FRONTIER.

ATHENS, November 28th.
1.45 p.m.

Reuter's correspondent learns from reliable sources that a quarter of a million Russian troops are concentrated in the Ismajl region near the Roumanian frontier.

RUSSIA AND ROUMANIA.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE IN PROGRESS.

BUCHAREST, November 28th.
1.45 p.m.

Bucharest journals state that a Conference is being held at Silistria, attended by the Roumanian Ministers of War, Public Works, and Agriculture, and the brother of the Premier, while Russia is represented by Prince Urusoff, the well-known authority on the East.

According to the *Matin*, the Conference is discussing "all contingencies to which the war may give rise on the lower course of the Danube."

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN REQUEST OF ROUMANIA.

LONDON, November 28th.
Reuter learns that some days ago Germany and Austria jointly requested Roumania for permission for their warships to proceed along the Danube beyond Bulgarian waters. Roumania declined.

It is fairly certain that the enemy's object was to menace the Russian concentration at Rani and at other points in southern Bessarabia.

SALONIKA INFESTED WITH SPIES.

UNHOLY WORK PRACTISED WITH ASTOUNDING OPENNESS.

LONDON, November 28th.
Reuter's Special Correspondent at Salonika Headquarters says that the town has acquired unforeseen importance and is overflowing with heterogeneous masses of military of most races and all colours. Nevertheless, the most striking feature is the ubiquity of the spies. Unhindered and unmolested, they practice their unholy work with astounding openness. German, Austrian, Bulgarian, and Turkish spies watch every private and military movement.

The British and French authorities are at present powerless, but the question needs prompt solution. The Greeks see the reasonableness of the Allies' requirements. The latter must control arrivals and departures and all telegrams, and be able to expel undesirable from the military zone. It is generally believed that the Greek reply to the Entente Powers' Note provides for the necessary reforms.

SERBIAN REARGUARDS STILL RESISTING.

AMSTERDAM, November 28th.
A Berlin *communiqué* says that the Serbian rearguards are still resisting, and are even attacking in the Mitrovitz region.

THE NEAR EAST

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH AND RUSSIAN CONSULS ARRIVE AT KAZVIN.

PETROGRAD, November 28th.
1.33 p.m.
A Teheran telegram says the Russian and British Consuls at Hamadan and members of the British and Russian colonies have arrived at Kazvin.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH OPERATIONS.

DESPATCH FROM SIR JOHN FRENCH.

LONDON, November 27th.
Field-Marshal Sir John French, in a despatch, says:—Our artillery successfully bombarded the enemy trenches during the past four days, destroying his wire and reaching his parapets. The enemy made little reply. Mining has been constant on both sides during the last few days.

Hostile artillery has been active north of Albert, north of Loos, north of Ploegstreet, and east of Ypres.

A heavy enemy bombing attack on Monday evening on a mine crater south of the Bethune-La Bassée road, was repulsed.

We exploded a mine on Tuesday north of the Bethune-La Bassée road and occupied the crater. The enemy on Wednesday exploded a mine south of Chuinchy, somewhat damaging our trenches. A hostile bombing attack against the crater was repulsed. The enemy yesterday exploded a mine near Corney and Givenchy.

Twenty-three of our aeroplanes yesterday successfully bombed a German hut and encampment north-east of Albert. The enemy replied with a single aeroplane which dropped six bombs near Bray, doing no damage.

CANNONADE ALONG ENTIRE FRONT.

PARIS, November 27th.

The evening *communiqué* says that there has been a cannonade along the entire front. It was very lively in Argonne, where a German ammunition depot was blown up.

There has been brisk grenade fighting in the region of Fille Morte, where the French occupied a mine crater.

HEAVY SNOWFALL IN THE VOSGES.

PARIS, November 28th.

An official *communiqué* says that all is quiet and that there has been a heavy fall of snow in the Vosges.

RUSSIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE ATTACK ON RIGA.

ABANDONED AS A HOPELESS TASK.

PETROGRAD, November 28th.

The Germans have begun preparing for the difficult operation of withdrawing from the hopeless task of capturing Riga, and, generally, the line of the Dvina. Everything bulky and valuable has already been removed from Mitau.

RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE IN NORTHERN THEATRE.

AMSTERDAM, November 28th.
A continued Russian offensive in the Baltic Provinces is admitted in a German *communiqué*.

HEAVY FIGHTING SOUTH OF RIGA.

LONDON, November 28th.

The German claim of the capture of Beresmuende, a few miles south of Riga, is not confirmed by the latest Russian *communiqué*, which says that fighting there all day yesterday ended indecisively.

Everything is quiet elsewhere along the whole front, except west of the town of Olyka, between Kovno and Lutsk, where attempts of the enemy to advance at two points nearly ended in disaster for him, Russian enveloping movements forcing him to retire precipitately to his starting point.

AUSTRO-ITALIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GORIZIA REPORTED FALLEN.

SEVERE FIGHTING ON ITALIAN FRONT.

ROME, November 27th.

The rumour that Gorizia has fallen is not confirmed in the latest *communiqué*, which says that fighting continued yesterday on the heights north-west of the town.

Repeated stubborn enemy counter-attacks did not prevent the Italians from consolidating and extending the conquered positions.

There was severe fighting in Carso along the ridge descending from Mount San Michele to the Isonzo. The enemy, by a sudden assault, captured the ridge, but the Italians retook it and now firmly hold it.

GENERAL.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SPLENDID SUCCESS OF THE FRENCH LOAN.

EIGHT HUNDRED MILLION STERLING IN A DAY.

PARIS, November 28th.

The whole of France is rejoicing at the success of the French loan. "The first day is already a victory." There is not a remote part of the country and not a single Frenchman who has not heard the ringing appeal of M. Ribot and grasped its meaning.

The subscription of twenty-thousand million francs in one day is regarded as a triumphant success for all the Allies. M. Millerand says that every Frenchman is doing his duty in subscribing to the victory of the soldiers.

GERMAN ENDURANCE. MERELY A MATHEMATICAL CALCULATION.

LONDON, November 28th.

Mr. R. McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in an interview with the *New York Tribune*, said that long before Britain's money runs short the supply of German men will be exhausted. The permanent wastage of German soldiers was not less than 200,000 monthly, and therefore it becomes merely a mathematical calculation as to how long Germany can continue to fight.

Mr. McKenna contrasted the financial position of Britain, where the gold market is still free, with that of Germany, the payment of whose large liabilities is dependent upon an indemnity from enemies, who will never be defeated. He emphasised the point that while the ability of Britain to pay her debts is practically inexhaustible, the ordinary machinery of payment is inadequate to meet the demands of the situation. Time will be required to realise securities, but the securities are there. It is merely a question of time.

GERMAN WASTAGE IN MANHOOD.

RAISING OF AGE LIMIT NECESSITATED.

LONDON, November 27th.

The official representative of the British Press, with the French *Armées* estimates the German losses for the first fifteen months of the war at 4,500,000, of which 3,000,000 will not return. He confirms Mr. McKenna's statement that the German net wastage is 200,000 monthly. To meet further losses Germany will be compelled to raise the age limit of those liable for military service above 45. Already a secret circular has been issued, instructing the authorities to proceed with the registration of men of 46 to 50 years of age.

GERMAN PEACE CAMPAIGN.

PRESIDENT WILSON WILL REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE.

WASHINGTON, November 27th.

It is stated authoritatively that President Wilson will refuse to participate in the various campaigns to convoke a conference of neutrals with a view to peace.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

LORD DERBY APOLOGISES.

LONDON, November 28th.

In a letter to the *Times*, Lord Derby expressed regret and offered sincere apologies for implying in his speech of the 24th inst. that Lord Ribblesdale deliberately said something which would be of use to the enemy.

LORD KITCHENER IN ITALY. ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME FROM ALL CLASSES.

ROME, November 28th.

Lord Kitchener has arrived here. He was welcomed enthusiastically by all classes, and there were manifestations of profoundest esteem, those present at his arrival included Cabinet Ministers, Senators, Deputies, and officers of the Army and Navy.

The whole Press warmly greets the British War Minister, emphasising his great powers as an organiser and a leader of men, and hope that Lord Kitchener will be able to co-ordinate the forces of the Allies, leading them to ultimate victory.

Lord Kitchener and the British Ambassador (Sir Rennell Rodd) conferred separately with Sig. Salandra and Baron Sonnino.

A luncheon at the Embassy in honour of Lord Kitchener was attended by the Ministers for War and the Colonies.

Afterwards Lord Kitchener conferred with General Porro, the deputy Chief of Staff, and called at the French Embassy.

The newspapers publish eulogistic articles on Lord Kitchener.

Lord Kitchener left in the afternoon on a visit to the Italian Front to confer with General Count Cadorna and King Emmanuel.

WELSH WORKERS' DETERMINATION.

REFLECTED IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

LONDON, November 28th.

The result of the Parliamentary election at Merthyr Tydvil is as follows:—
STANTON (Unofficial Labour) ... 10,236
WINSTONE (Labour) ... 6,030

Unofficial Labour majority ... 4,206

It is a noteworthy result, as Mr. Stanton fought on patriotic lines. He declared: "If the Government said that Conscription is necessary then I shall vote for double Conscription if necessary." This is the first big indication of the determination of the Welsh workers to carry on the war to victory, especially as this was Mr. Keir Hardie's seat.

MUNITIONS OUTPUT IN CANADA.

IMPORTANT EXTENSION SCHEME ON FOOT.

OTTAWA, November 27th.

Plans are in course of preparation for an important extension of munitions works in Canada. There will not only be a larger output, but banks will assist in financing the concerns. The banks are accepting British bills of exchange, while previously payments were made direct from British funds.

BATTLE NEAR BAGDAD.

BRITISH TROOPS' SPLENDID SPIRIT.

LONDON, November 27th.

A further telegram from General Sir J. Nixon regarding recent fighting at Ctesiphon, near Bagdad, says that General Townshend's troops are in possession of the battlefield, the Turks retiring on Bialah, ten miles above Ctesiphon and the same distance from Bagdad. The Turkish prisoners now number 1,300 men. They have been taken to Lajj. The British wounded totalled 2,500, of whom 1,800 left on Thursday for Basra. The number of killed is not yet reported.

General Nixon speaks highly of General Townshend's handling of the troops, and also of the splendid spirit of the men, after severe losses, hardships, and want of water and food.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH TRADE IN CHINA.

BOARD OF TRADE COMMISSIONER'S ADVICE.

LONDON, November 28th.

In an address to the Far Eastern section of the London Chamber of Commerce and the China Association, Mr. Perry-Ainscough, who recently concluded a mission of investigation in the interior of China on behalf of the Board of Trade, said that closer co-operation of British officials, manufacturers, merchants, and financial interests would be necessary if we were to compete successfully with German methods. Our manufacturers should work more for the future and not always expect an immediate return. Greater facilities were required from banks and financial institutions for financing deferred payments on large Chinese Government private contracts. As China opened up, our mercantilemen would require more knowledge of the language and business methods of the country. The present scarcity of young Englishmen possessing such knowledge would become more acute. He hoped Eastern houses would encourage their assistants to take University courses in Chinese and to study the language in China. Mr. Perry-Ainscough appealed to British merchants in China to take advantage of the lull in German competition, revise their methods, and seize their opportunities. He deprecated misgivings regarding the proposed change in the Chinese Constitution. "The President had proved himself the only man able to govern the country, and if the change would maintain stability and increase efficiency and the Government settled the question of succession, we might congratulate the new Empire of China upon a wise and far-sighted decision."

BRITISH CREDIT IN AMERICA.

NEW YORK, November 27th.

An additional British credit has been established here from a loan bearing interest at 4½ per cent., running for six months, and secured on British Government Bonds. The credit aggregates \$50,000,000, and the security is \$11,000,000.

CO-OPERATION OF ALLIES.

RUSSIAN MILITARY MISSION IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, November 27th.

Reuter learns that an important Russian Military Mission has arrived in London, under Admiral Roussine, the Chief of the Naval Staff, accompanied by officers of the Imperial Staff. The Mission is the outcome of the desire of Lord Kitchener for closer touch with Russia. The Mission will confer with the Government on the conduct of the war. There was never closer co-operation between the Allies. They state that the Russian supplies of arms and munitions have vastly improved, and is daily becoming more satisfactory.

CAUSES OF THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF SILVER.

LONDON, November 28th.

1.55 p.m.
[Received November 27th, 10.10 a.m.]

Messrs. Montagu's weekly report on the silver market attributes the rapid rise in price to the announcement of the unexpectedly small size of the London stock, which has invigorated the Indian bazaar demand, caught Chinese speculators napping, and made America reluctant to sell. The continued activity of Continental enquiry is also a factor in the rise, while the purchases for home coinage have maintained each advance. Despite the abnormal figure reached, only small supplies are available. The outlook is good.

NEW DUTCH MINISTER TO THE VATICAN.

THE HAGUE, November 27th.

Jonkheer Van Nispen tot Sevenaer has been appointed temporary Minister at the Vatican, succeeding Jonkheer Regoud, who is dead.

NAWAB OF HYDERABAD.

LONDON, November 27th.

The Nawab of Hyderabad is gazetted an Honorary Aide-de-Camp.

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